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Ahari et al.

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(54) **METHOD FOR ENHANCING ULTRASOUND
VISIBILITY OF HYPERECHOIC
MATERIALS**

(56) **References Cited**

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CPC **A61B 90/39**
See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A hydrogel plug is placed under stress during its curing stage, in one embodiment, by application of an externally applied force. The stress may also be induced during or after the dehydration process. The direction of the externally applied force increases the length, width, depth, or radial extent of the plug. The elastic limit of the plug is exceeded when the external force is applied so that the plug substantially retains its stressed size and shape when the externally applied force is removed. When the stretched or otherwise deformed dehydrated plug is hydrated, it substantially returns to the configuration it had prior to its dehydration and prior to the application of the externally applied force.

8 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

